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TAGS: SHUM, PREL, SW  
SUBJ COUNSELOR DERWINSKI'S STATEMENT ON RAOUL  
WALLENBERG

FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF COUNSELOR DERWINSKI'S STATEMENT  
ON RAOUL WALLENBERG TO BE GIVEN BEFORE THE HOUSE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL  
ORGANIZATIONS ON AUGUST 3.

BEGIN TEXT:

IT IS A PLEASURE TO SPEAK TO YOU TODAY ABOUT RAOUL  
WALLENBERG.

LET ME BEGIN BY STATING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND  
THE PRESIDENT SHARE WITH THE CONGRESS A STRONG CONCERN  
ABOUT THE FATE OF RAOUL WALLENBERG. WE ARE TAKING EVERY  
APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE THAT CONCERN KNOWN TO THE  
SOVIET AUTHORITIES AND TO MAKE CLEAR TO THEM THAT THE  
UNITED STATES WILL BE SATISFIED WITH NOTHING LESS THAN A  
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FULL AND COMPLETE ACCOUNTING OF THE FATE OF MR.

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WALLENBERG.

AS YOU KNOW, IN 1981 PRESIDENT REAGAN SIGNED A BILL WHICH MADE RAOUL WALLENBERG AN HONORARY CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES. ALTHOUGH HONORARY CITIZENSHIP ESTABLISHED NO RIGHTS IN INTERNATIONAL LAW THAT WOULD GIVE US ANY GREATER LEGAL STANDING IN OUR INQUIRIES WITH THE SOVIET UNION, IT WAS AN IMPORTANT SYMBOLIC ACT. IT LET THE ENTIRE WORLD KNOW HOW MUCH WE ADMIRE RAOUL WALLENBERG'S COURAGE, HOW MUCH WE ARE INSPIRED BY HIS DEDICATION TO HUMANITY AND HUMANITARIAN PRINCIPLES, AND HOW MUCH WE DEPLORE HIS UNJUST AND ILLEGAL PUNISHMENT BY THE SOVIET UNION.

FOLLOWING THE SIGNING CEREMONY WHICH MADE RAOUL WALLENBERG AN HONORARY AMERICAN, THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE MADE THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT FORMALLY AND OFFICIALLY AWARE OF OUR CONTINUED DEDICATION TO FINDING OUT THE TRUTH ABOUT RAOUL WALLENBERG'S FATE. TO DATE, WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED A SATISFACTORY RESPONSE FROM THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT TO THIS OR ANY OF OUR EARLIER INQUIRIES.

THE OFFICIAL SOVIET EXPLANATIONS OF WHAT HAPPENED TO WALLENBERG HAVE BEEN INCONSISTENT AND INCOMPLETE. IN 1947 THE SOVIETS INFORMED SWEDEN THAT WALLENBERG DIED IN HUNGARY IN 1945. IN 1957, AFTER REPEATED SWEDISH INQUIRIES, THE SOVIETS STATED THAT WALLENBERG HAD, IN FACT, DIED IN A SOVIET PRISON IN 1947. IN 1980, THE SOVIETS PROVIDED THIS SAME EXPLANATION TO US.

OUR POSITION HAS REMAINED CONSISTENT AND CLEAR. UNTIL THE SOVIETS PROVIDE A FULL CLARIFICATION OF WALLENBERG'S FATE, THE UNITED STATES WILL NOT ACCEPT AS FINAL THE  
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SOVIET ASSURANCES THAT WALLENBERG DIED IN 1947.

WE HAVE PRESSED OUR EFFORTS TO OBTAIN AN ACCOUNTING FROM THE SOVIETS BOTH ON A BILATERAL BASIS AND AT INTERNATIONAL FORA, SUCH AS THE CSCE REVIEW CONFERENCE IN MADRID AND THE U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. IN THIS REGARD, LAST YEAR OUR REPRESENTATIVE TO THE U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, MR. MICHAEL NOVAK, URGED THE SOVIET UNION TO MAKE "A HUMANITARIAN GESTURE, WHICH WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO UNIVERSAL GOOD-FEELING, NAMELY, A RENEWED

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SEARCH AND FULL REPORT, WHICH MAY LAY QUESTIONS TO REST; OR ELSE, IN THE BEST OF ALL POSSIBLE OUTCOMES, RESULT IN THE DISCOVERY OF THE WHEREABOUTS OF A MAN WHO STANDS AMONG THE HEROES OF OUR TIME."

AT THIS YEAR'S SESSION OF THE COMMISSION, ON FEBRUARY 22, ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE WALTER BERNIS AGAIN RAISED THE ISSUE OF RAOUL WALLENBERG, WHOM HE TERMED "ONE OF THE

GENUINE HEROES OF WORLD WAR II, AND ONE OF THE WAR'S MOST NOTABLE SPIRITS." MR. BERNIS SUGGESTED THAT THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION'S WORKING GROUP ON DISAPPEARANCES BE AUTHORIZED TO "MAKE A RENEWED SEARCH AND A FULL REPORT" ON THE CASE "INVOLVING THE MOST FAMOUS OF ALL DISAPPEARED PERSONS."

WE HAVE ALSO CONTINUED TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF SWEDEN TO TRY TO CONFIRM REPORTS THAT HAVE COME TO LIGHT ABOUT WALLENBERG. TO DATE, WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO CONFIRM ANY OF THE REPORTS SUGGESTING THAT WALLENBERG MIGHT STILL BE ALIVE. WE INTEND TO CONTINUE TO COOPERATE FULLY WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF SWEDEN AND ALL OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES IN A PERSISTENT EFFORT TO OBTAIN INFORMATION THAT WILL CLARIFY THE FATE OF THIS BRAVE MAN.

AS AMBASSADOR MAX KAMPELMAN NOTED AT A CSCE PLENARY  
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SESSION A YEAR AGO, THE WALLENBERG CASE IS ONE THAT "WILL NOT GO AWAY"; THE SOVIET FAILURE "TO APPRECIATE THE HUMAN FACTOR WHICH IS SYMBOLIZED BY THE WALLENBERG CASE" ONLY SERVES TO STIMULATE FURTHER INTEREST.

ONE IDEA BROUGHT FORTH TO EMPHASIZE THE WORLDWIDE CONCERN ABOUT RAOUL WALLENBERG WAS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WALLENBERG FREEDOM AWARD WHICH WOULD BE USED TO HONOR INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE ADVANCED THE CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS. ALTHOUGH THERE IS A GREAT DEAL OF MERIT TO THIS IDEA, IT HAS NOT BEEN ADOPTED. ONE OF THE CONCERNS FELT STRONGLY BY BOTH THE UNITED STATES AND SWEDEN IS TO AVOID ANY ACTION THAT MIGHT GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE WEST ACCEPTS THE NOTION THAT WALLENBERG IS DEAD. NATURALLY, SUCH AN AWARD WOULD BE REGARDED IN MANY CIRCLES AS A "MEMORIAL" AWARD, AND THIS WOULD NOT BE IN KEEPING WITH

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OUR GOALS.

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO EXPRESS CONCERN OVER THE WALLENBERG CASE AT EVERY APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY, BOTH PUBLICLY AND IN OUR DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION. I CAN ASSURE YOU CATEGORICALLY THAT THIS MATTER WILL BE RAISED AGAIN IN EVERY APPROPRIATE FORUM.

THE TRAGEDY OF RAOUL WALLENBERG HAS ATTRACTED THE ATTENTION OF MILLIONS OF PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD, AND NOWHERE MORE FORCEFULLY THAN IN THE UNITED STATES. THIS HEARING IS AN EXAMPLE OF THE SPECIAL CONCERN OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, AND WE APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY IT PROVIDES TO KEEP THIS ISSUE AT THE FOREFRONT OF WORLD ATTENTION. END TEXT. SHULTZ

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